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KERALA KALA MANDALAM - INDIA PRESENTS

RAMAYANA - KATHAKALI

THE STORY

The play of Ramayana was written by the Rajah of Kottarakkara.

Ramayana is the epic story of Rama, the eldest son of King Dasaratha of Ayodhya. Under a vow taken at the instigation of his step-mother Kaikeyi, Rama moves out of Ayodhya for a period of fourteen years. Accompanied by his wife Sita and younger brother Lakshmana, Rama into the hermitage at Panchavati in the forest.

Ravana is the mighty King of Lanka. His sister Surpanakha is captivated by the handsome brothers Rama and Lakshmana. As both of them reject her advances, she threatens to use force on Lakshmana who disfigures her in the fray that ensues and chases her away. She goes to the mighty Ravana and cries before him. Ravana swers vengeance on the two brothers.

Scene I: Ravana and Maricha.

Ravana confers with his uncle Maricha and they jointly devise a scheme to wreak vengeance on Rama. They decide to abduct Sita.

Scene II: Panchavadi.

While Rama and Sita are conversing, a pretty deer arrives on the scene. It playfully runs around Sita. Sita is captivated by the charming little deer. She tries to catch it so that she could tame it as a companion. The wily deer keeps out of her reach. She asks Rama to help her. Rama chases the deer. The deer keeps on running away with Rama behind.

Rama calls Lakshmana and asks him to stand guard by Sita while he is away chasing the deer.

Scene III: Sita and Lakshmana.

Sita and Lakshmana hear the loud wail in Rama's voice. "OH Sita, oh Lakshmana, come and save me."

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Sita is upset. She asks Lakshmana to go to the help of Rama who might have been set upon an sttacked by either Rakshasas or wild animals. Lakshmana tries to pacify Sita telling her that Rama is quite capable of looking after himself. But in her anxiety Sita abuses Lakshmana and orders him to go to the help of Rama.

Lakshmana is aware of the dangers in the forest. He does not want to leave Sita alone. He, however, has no alternative before Sita'S angry command. He therefore leaves in search of Rama very reluctantly.

A few moments after Lakshmana leaves the scene, a Sanyasi appears before Sita, Sita comes out of the hermitage and answers the holy man. Suddenly she finds that the holy man is no longer there. Instead there stands the mighty Ravana. Sita is shocked with fright. Ravana laughs at the helpless Sita, takes her forcibly in his chariot and proceeds to Lanka.

Hearing the sobs of Sita, Jatayu, the King of birds and an old friend of Rama's father, crosses Ravana's path and wages war with him. A bitter battle is fought, Ravana tricks the bird to reveal its "Achilles' Heel". Very soon the battle is over. Ravana chops off the bird's wings. Leaving the bird to die in pain, Ravana goes away with Sita.

Rama and Lakshmana, when they return to the hermitage do not find Sita. They realise that they were victims of a monstrous plan set by someone. In their state of sorrow they proceed along the route taken by Ravana and come to the spot where Jatayu is lying wounded.

From Jatayu Rama learns that Sita's a abductor is the mighty Ravana himself. After advising Rama to proceed further and seek the assistance of Sugriva, Jatayu dies.

Scene IV: <u>The Rama - Sugriva Alliance.</u>

Bali and Sugriva are brothers. Bali, the elder one, is the King of of the monkey kingdom-Kishkindha. Ha hates Sugriva and has also usurped his wife. Sugriva is living in hiding, waiting for an opportunity to

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Rama and Lakshmana meet sugriva. Rama and Sugriva enter into an alliance. Rama undertakes to help Sugriva to kill Bali and Sugriva promises to place his army at Rama's disposal to fight Ravana. Before doing so however, sugriva satisfies himself of Rama's capacity to deliver the goods by making him destroy, the famous seven palms that Bali uses daily for his exercise.

Scene V: Death of Bali.

Bali's Tiranokku.

The mighty Bali cannot believe his ears. Sugriva, whom he has all along considered as a coward, is challenging him to battle, Bali comes down from his palace and wages war with Sugriva. In the terrible battle that follows Sugriva is no metch for Bali. Rama, who is hiding behind atree, sends an arrow at Bali. Bali falls. He realises that it is Rama's arrow that is killing him. He reproaches Rama for shooting him form behind. Hearing of Bali's plight, his wife Tara and son Angada rush to the scene. As he is dying, Bali entrusts his family to the care of Sugriva and dies with the name of God on his lips.

Scene VI: Hanuman's Visit to Lanka

Hanuman, the trusted Minister of Sugriva ventures to cross over to Lanka, the capital of Ravana and convey a message from Rama to Sita. He jumps over the occean and lands in Lanka. He locates the place where Sita is kept under surveillance. As Hanuman proceeds to meet Sita, he seen Ravana akpproaching the scene and hides himself on a tree.

Scene VII: Ravana and Sita,

Ravana, attired in his best, aproaches Sita and beseeches her to accept him, He tempts her with riches, power and glory. But Sita disdainfully cuts him short and Warns him that his days are numbered . Embittered by the long waiting and provoked by Sita. Is attitude of unconcern, Ravana loses his temper and draws his sword. Ravana's wife Mandodari appears on the scene and drags away the discomfited Lord of the Fourteen Worlds.

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Scene VIII: Hanuman and Sita.

After Ravana's departure, Hanuman climbs down and approaches Sita. At first Sita is non-plussed. When she hears Hanuman, she is gratified; Hanuman hands over Rama's ring to Sita and takes the jewel that Sita has been wearing on her head (choodamani) to be taken to Rama.

Scene IX: Hanuman, A Prisoner in Ravana's Court.

After bidding farewell to Sita, Hanuman creates havoc in Lanka. He is caught by Ravana's soldiers and brought before him. Ravana issues orders that Hanuman's tail should be wrapped with cloth dipped in oil and Set fire to. Hanuman does not miss the opportunity. Holding his blazing tail like a torch, he sets ablaze the whole of Lanka. Being the son of Vayu, the Lord of the Winds, Hanuman is immune to fire.

Scene X: Death of Ravana.

Rama hasentered Lanka with Sugrives army. He is waging war. At last the Day has arrived. Rama faces Ravana in battle. Ravana is killed.

Scene XI: Bhavata is performing Sandal worship at Nandi village.

As the stipulated time was coming to an end Bherata not seeing his brother Rama. felt disappointed. He decides to put an end to his life. As he was about to jump into five Hanuman oppears on the scene. He canveys the happy news-Victerious return of Rama from Lanka- to Bharata. Rama, Sita, Lakshmana and the party is received with great honour.

Scene XII: Coronation of Rama

Rama is Crowned as the King of Ayodbya by the great sage Vasishta.

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CAST

RAMAYANA

RAVANA	= KALA MANDLAM VASU PISHAROTY
MARICHA.	= GOPAKUMAR.
SREERAMA	= KALAMANDALAM SANKARAN NAMBOODIRI
LAKSHMANA	= KALAMANDALAM BALASUBRAMANIAN.
SEETHA	= SAJAN.
SANYASI	= PRASANNAKUMAR.
JATAVYU	= VIJAYARAJ.
SUGREEVA	= SOORYANARAYANAN
BA LI	= KAVUNGAL DIVAKARAN
ANGADA	= SIVADASAN
TARA	= SUKU
HANUMAN	= KALAMANDALAM RAMANKUTTY NAIR
MANDODARI	= SUKU
PRAHASTA	= VIJAYARAJ
BHARATHA	= GOPAKUMAR
SATHRUGHNA	= PRADEEPKUMAR.
VASTSHTA	= PRA SANNAKUMAR
GUGHA.	= SUKU
VOCAL	- KALAMAN DALAM SUBRAMANIAN
	" SUKUMARAN.
CHENDA	" RADHAKRISHNA MARAR
MADDALAM.	" GOPIKUTTAN NAIR.
MAKEUP	" SIVARAMAN
	BALAN.
GREENROOM ASST	MURALEEDHARAN
MANAGER.	= IYYEMKOE SREEDHARAN

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